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SOURCE

Nan-fang Jih-pao.

CURTAILMENT OF COLLECTION OF GRAIN TAX FROM KWANGSI MINORITY NATIONALITIES

The Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao of 13 January 1952 reported that the Kwangsi People's Government had alleviated the hardships and calamities besetting the minority nationalities of the province by curtailing the collection of grain tax and furnishing them with food relief.

The report did not elaborate on the nature of the calamities; instead, it claimed that many improvements in the life of the minority nationalities were made in 1951. The report follows:

Minority nationality work in Kwangsi under the leadership of the Communist Party and the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, and through their thorough implementation of the government's minority nationality policy, achieved tremendous results in 1951.

The political consciousness of 6 million fraternal nationalities of the province has been elevated, unly among them has been strengthened, and initial improvements in the life of these groups have been achieved.

After the extermination of the roving bandits in May and June 1951, the situation became stabilized because the minority nationalities were liberated from bandit oppression. During the extermination of the bandits, the People's Liberation Army correctly carried out the minority nationality policy and simultaneously conducted a variety of political activities. Antibandit and security committees and militia units were established in the villages. By obtaining the right to participate in all categories of political action, the political position of the minority nationalities was raised.

Members of minority nationality groups, in a proportionate ratio participate or attend the conferences of all-circles representatives or peasant congresses on the provincial, special ch'u, hsien, ch'u, and hsiang levels. The

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Kwangsi People's Government, in cooperation with its special offices in Kueilin, Liu-chou, and Pai-se, held special conferences on minority nationality work. Twice, minority nationalities have sent representatives to Peiping to participate in the celebration of the national holiday. They have also sent representatives to attend the conferences of the National Committee of the China People's Political Consultative Conference and the conferences of the Central-South China Military and Administrative Committee.

ter the visit of the Central Feople's Government Mission to the minority nationalities in July 1951, the Kwangsi Feople's Government actively expanded the establishing of regional autonomy in the minority nationality areas. At present, regional autonomous democratic administrations have been established in the following areas: two regional autonomous governments in the Ta-yao Shan area, an autonomous government of the Turk-shan Yao nationality in Ch'uan Hsien, and 12 autonomous hising governments. A chalition government has also been established in Lung-sheng Hsien.

Initial improvements in the livelihood of the millority nationalities were made by reducing their burdensome grain tax, granting them relief food, and developing their trade. Taking into account the difficulties and the perious calamities which harassed the minority nationalities, the Kwangsi People's Government reduced the amount of grain tax collected from the minority nationalities in 1951. In some cases, the minority hat ballies were exempted from paying the grain tax.

The minority nationalities of Tung-nam Haiang and Tung-pei Haiang in Haiang Haian were given 50,000 cattles of relief rice as well as being exempted from paying their grain tax. During 1.51, ting-sheng Haian furnished 116,000 cattles of relief rice and loaned 100,000 cattles of rice to the farmers. The Kwangsi People's Government purchased local products as another means of improving the livelihood of the minority matienal ties. State 'rading companies in Wuchow, Liu-chou, and Ping-lo areas bought nearly in billion youn of native products from Ta-yao Shan and its adjacent area.

In developing cultural and health work among the minority nationalities, many cadres were trained. There are 100 minority nationality cadres in the Lungsheng, Pai-shou, Ling-chouan, and 1-ming areas of kuel-lin Special Chu now enengaged in culture and health work. In addition, there are more than 300 minority nationality students attending training classes in various courses.

According to an investigation carried on in the spring of 1951, there are 232 minority nationality schools located in le hieros. Adult education has also been developed. For example, in lung-sheng Hisien there are 313 newspaper reading groups, and almost every village has a persant literacy class and a women's literacy class. There are more than 1,400 adult students, of which 70 percent are women, attending the evening schools in two chius in Lung-sheng Hisien.

In the health field, the Central Feople's Government organized a medical treatment team in February 1951 which furnished the minority nationalities with medical supplies valued at 29,590,000 yuan and free medical treatment. In addition, the medical team assigned to the Central People's Government Mission gave free medical treatment in the minority nationality areas they visite.

As shown by the aforementioned activities, the minority nationalities in Kwangsi are now busily engaged in changing the old economic and political systems which have exploited and oppressed them. They have already removed the discriminations which degraded and reduced their cultural and social position. The Yao people fittingly sing: "Makes no difference whether Yao or Han /Chinese/, under heaven the poor belong to one family freedom flower blooms everywhere."

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